



Tourist Corporation Bonaire announces the third Pro Kids Windsurfing Event

What is considered the world's premiere youth freestyle windsurfing event will take place for the third year in a row in Bonaire during the first week of August 2007. Ronella Croes, General Manager of TCB and Elvis Martinus, co-owner of the Bonaire Windsurf Place were recently in Aruba to announce the event and encourage participation.

Elvis has been a coach and mentor to young windsurfers for over twenty years, and he along with Ann Phelan are the cofounders of the King of the Caribbean, a very popular Professional Windsurfing Association freestyle event. The Freestyle category is when athletes have the opportunity to show their prowess with breathtaking jumps and maneuvers.

The first Pro Kids Freestyle Tournament held in 2005 was a dream come true for Elvis, and welcomed over fifty competitors. Next year the inscription doubled, and this year organizers expect to see nearly 150 young windsurfers battling it out in Bonaire's ideal conditions. The 2006 winner, Kiri Thode of Bonaire presently holds the number 4 place in the world for freestyle windsurfers, men's division. Sarah-Quita Offringa of Aruba is the PWA sub champion in the women's division, and the youngest woman to ever win a gold medal in the freestyle.

Elvis and Ronella reminded press members that the event will also "feature local music, dance shows, food, and revelry." This will also include the Baby Kid Event, where children age two and up, some still in diapers, get to "strut their stuff," and many regard it as one of the highlights of the week.

For more information about registration and a video of exciting windsurfing action, visit the website www.prokidsfreestyle.com.

Bonaire is “doing it up BIG” for the 40th anniversary of the International Sailing Regatta

No longer just a gathering of “old salts” the annual event that takes place during the weeklong October break is now the 40th Bonaire International Sailing Regatta *and Festival*. The Tourism Corporation Bonaire has announced a parade of special events to accompany the sailing tournament, making the week an ideal family destination for the first vacation of the Aruban and Antillean school year, with something exciting for all ages.

Organizers have planned a “huge celebration” during the second week of October, including nightly performances of music and dance by local and international bands and artists. These include a “Soul Night” on Friday starring George McCrae, known for his 80 million selling hit “Rock your Baby” who is still successfully touring around the world. More about his new hit album, “Red, White, and Blue” can be found at www.georgemccraeamerica.com. On Saturday night, the closing event will entail a Carnival Parade and Party.

Every evening of the regatta will be a festival event, with the streets of Kralendijk filled with booths offering food, beverages, local art and souvenirs, aside from the sound of music.

Additionally, there will be a week filled with various sporting events and competitions for landlubbers, including a softball tournament in separate divisions for men and women. Other competitions include dominoes, a 36km bike tour, a fun walk, a swim race to Klein Bonaire, kayak races, and The Comcabon/Web Regatta Run.

In connection with the anniversary and expanded program, the TCB has launched a new and informative website listing the many activities at www.bonaireregatta.com. The TCB and event organizers are very excited about the fabulous week of events planned for the regatta’s 40th anniversary, and hotels, guesthouses, and car rental companies are cooperating with special packages for the week, some offering lodging low as \$27 per night, per person.

For more information on the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta and Festival, including up to date schedules of events, contact names numbers to register for individual sporting tournaments and vacation packages, visit their website or call the Tourism Corporation Bonaire at (599) 717-8322.